



#### The Morse Conviction.

The conviction of C. W. Morse, the ice trust promoter, appeared inevitable as his trial progressed. His defense was pitifully unconvincing. It amounted virtually to a plea of ignorance of the law.

The banking interests have no reason to feel that their honor has been assailed because Morse must go to prison. He was of their numbers only so far as he could employ funds in his charge for the purpose of swinging stock deals. His operations were carried on with the knowledge always present that he might wreck the institution of which he was the head. It has been declared that the attempt on the part of Wall street to rid itself of Morse and to avenge itself upon F. Augustus Heinze caused the panic of last fall. This may be far from the actual truth, but catastrophes of the sort have followed less important incidents.

Morse was a type of what has been called the "predatory rich." He was a get rich quick financier upon a large scale, daring, unscrupulous, inordinately selfish and self interested. The promotion of the ice trust was carried through at a time when an unusually hot summer emphasized a shortage in the ice supply. To aid the floating of the stock great blocks of shares were scattered about among influential brokers, city officials and those who might be expected to inaugurate reprisals. Investigators found that Mayor VanWyck had accepted certificates offered him gratuitously. The rise in the price of ice, partly due to the shortage, was more to artificial inflation, brought intense suffering to tenement dwellers and others who could least afford to meet the increased cost. This was the foundation stone of Morse's notoriety. Throughout the years he made no effort to live it down. His name became associated with a score of questionable financial affairs until, growing more bold as his fortunes grew, he precipitated the smash, the echoes of which are now dying.

Alfred H. Curtis seems to have been no more than a tool of Morse's, but he is no less guilty. He was as eager as his principal to pile up a swift fortune. He took chances which he knew were dangerous, permitted the juggling of depositors' money and the falsification of the books.

The banking industry should feel that it has been purged, the dispatch of Morse and Curtis to the penitentiary will give the honest and cautious banker higher standing in the community and serve as a warning to the "wild cats" who cloak their irregular financiering with a national charter.

Mrs. M. A. Ross, of Bloomington, Ill., was a guest of her niece, Mrs. Will Morris for a day or two last week. She came to visit her sister, Mrs. Muxlow, and find her gone to Omaha, she and Mrs. Morris went up there on Monday.

Marve Meyer is now the owner of a fine auto, in which he expects to make his trip to Colorado the coming spring.

#### The Fatal Gun.

When Robin Cooper and Senator Carmack, of Tennessee, met, each was armed. Had neither man carried a pistol there would have been no shooting. The country's criminal history is filled with incidents proving that the habit of carrying deadly weapons is quite as serious as any of the disagreeable things that prevail in the United States.

Senator Carmack is dead because of a trifling difference in politics that might have been adjusted over a cup of tea or a mint julep. Had the two men come together in the street at a time when both were unarmed somebody's face might have been slapped or somebody might have had a black eye as the result of a scuffle, but it is hardly likely that Carmack would have died, and there would not have begun a feud of vast proportions.

When Harry Thaw went to the Madison Roof Garden in the summer of 1906, he made a mistake in taking a pistol with him. The pistol ended the life of a bad man, but it didn't punish the bad man, for the reason that Stanford White never knew that he was struck, and consequently had no knowledge of the penalty he was paying for his wrong doing. Young Thaw has been paying, however, a very high price for the satisfaction he had in standing over a dead man's form with a smoking pistol in hand. But for this pistol White might have continued a few years longer in spite of his ill health and Thaw would have saved the state of New York a large sum of money.

While pistol carrying is practiced all over the country, and is everywhere productive of bad results, the real home of the gun toter is in the south, where, in many instances, hot headedness is mistaken for pride. The hair trigger gentlemen of the southern states would do well to leave their pistols at home or remove the chips from their shoulders.

#### The World Grows Smaller.

For two cents it is possible for anyone to send a letter from San Francisco to London. The man in St. Louis who wants to write to his friends and relatives in any part of the United Kingdom finds it necessary to pay only the same amount of postage that he would employ in sending a letter to Belleville. The man in Cork, or Edinburgh, will spend the same amount of money in sending a letter from his city to his relatives in St. Louis. While five cents was a very small sum for this service, it was enough to give pause to some frugal souls who will now write more frequently.

Thus is the world made smaller. One hundred years ago several dollars were required to send a message from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast. Letters from points in the United States to places in Europe were few and far between, and most of them failed to reach their destinations. It is now a common thing for Budapest to correspond with Seattle, St. Louis with St. Petersburg and Winnipeg with Warsaw. Speed has made a better understanding within the human family, and the letters that are the children of speed have helped the good cause.

#### PROBATE COURT MATTERS.

##### Judge Murphy Disposes of a Goodly Bunch of Probate Business.

During the entire last week, and a few days this week, Judge Murphy has been as busy as a cranberry merchant, hearing and disposing of probate matters.

G. H. Penny, who has charge of the Charles Wylie estate, was granted an order of distribution and \$300 each was ordered distributed to Mrs. Everson, Mrs. Goodnight, Mrs. Will Fitzmaurice and Miss Nettie Wylie.

Ed Fuhrman, as guardian of Edna Fuhrman, in making his 9th annual settlement, showed a balance of \$104.47 due his ward.

John Strough, who has charge of the Nora Butterick estate, made his 8th annual settlement, showing a balance in his hands of \$394.75.

The appraisal of personal property, in the Lassen Sipes estate, was made by P. F. and E. E. Leach and George Hunt. The valuation was fixed at \$24. A. W. VanCamp, W. R. Hopper and Chas. A. Moser, as commissioners, to set off the widow's homestead in the Wm. Anno estate, filed their report.

Van Taylor as guardian of Anna E. Loudon filed his first annual settlement showing a balance of \$265.40.

Henry Linville filed a demand for \$200 against the P. M. Paschal estate. A trial was had, which brought many witnesses. The demand was offset by an interest charge, and a balance of 27 cents was awarded Linville.

Mary Heine is the guardian of the Heine children and as such she filed her third annual settlement, showing a balance due her as guardian of \$528.25. This condition was brought about by reason of the loss of crops the past year from the high water conditions, and therefore advanced this sum for the benefit of her wards.

W. H. Richards, as guardian, was granted an order to sell certain real estate for the benefit of his ward, Ed Kewen.

An affidavit in appeal was filed, from the decision of the court, in the demand of J. C. Cochran against the D. D. Perkins & Co. estate.

In the estate of the Wyman heirs, P. L. Trapp, as guardian, filed his settlement, showing \$2,091.82 as due Demas, and \$50 was appropriated for support. As to Helen his second settlement showed a balance of \$1,713.24 due his ward, and \$200 was appropriated for her support for the year.

William Kew as guardian of May Stanley, filed his report of the sale of his ward's 1/7 interest in 53 acres of land, made to Lemon Nottley for \$471.43; his first annual settlement showed a balance due his ward of \$149.08. The guardian of Guy, Harry and Allen Stanley filed his report of sale his wards 6/7 interest in 53 acres of land to Lemon Nottley for \$1,414.29, which were approved by the court, as to both sales.

Mat Cawood in charge of the Amelia Stacey estate, made his final settlement, showing a balance of \$31.38 on hand, which was ordered turned over to Nellie M. Cawood.

Alonso and Charles McNulty, in charge of the G. W. McNulty estate, made their final settlement, which showed a balance due the heirs of \$2,010.88. It was ordered distributed in equal parts to May E. Heck, Harriet A. J. W. Carrie, Lon, Charles and Belle McNulty.

M. D. Walker in charge of the estate of Mrs. E. F. Adams, filed his first annual settlement, which showed a balance of \$15.87, and the court ordered settlements discontinued; as guardian of Bryant Vinin, made settlement, which showed a balance of \$30.32. As administrator of the Ed. Prussman estate, his settlement showed a balance of \$2,417.91; as guardian of John Brodbeck, his 9th annual settlement showed a balance of \$1,563.59. He made his 7th annual settlement of the Blevins heirs, showing a balance of \$2,003.63, and his 9th settlement as guardian of Mary Reel, showed a balance of \$377.39.

Elizabeth Hoffman, in charge of the Charles Hoffman estate and filed her first settlement, showing a balance of \$5,962.73. She was allowed \$21.16 for sundry expenses.

John Scarlett as administrator of the James VanGundy estate made his first settlement, showing a balance in his hands of \$1,569.72.

W. S. Thomson filed a demand of \$30.50 against the D. D. Perkins estate, which was referred to John W. Stokes, as special administrator.

Charley Dege, as administrator of the F. W. Dege estate, made his final settlement and there being a balance of \$502.83, it was ordered distributed to himself and mother, as also a number of insolvent notes.

Albert Noelsch made his first settlement in the John Noelsch estate, showing a balance of \$8,845.52.

Albert Roecker, as administrator of the

George Adolph estate, was granted an order for the sale of probate property; he was granted a refund order for \$45, money advanced by Joshua Adolph; \$100 was ordered appropriated for the widow, and \$125 ordered for the widow's yearly allowance.

Albert Roecker, as executor of the John G. Cowan estate, filed his final settlement showing a balance in his hands of \$7,474.31, which was ordered distributed to the following heirs: To Mrs. Mary Cowan, \$2,212.30; to Cora and Florence Cowan, each \$817.50; to child of Jessie Messenger, Etta and John Messenger, each \$545; to the heirs of Mary E. Cowan, John Asher, Frances and Aseneth Cowan, each \$187.75; to Lillian, Robert, Dewitt, Charles, Reed, Ivan and Arthur Cowan, each \$233.57.

G. W. Cummins in charge of the D. C. Anderson estate, filed his final settlement, showing a balance in his hands of \$1,263.41, which was ordered distributed to the children of D. C. Anderson, Alice and George.

On making her first annual settlement there was found to be due her \$399.97, in the Augustus Appleman estate, by Mrs. Hannah Appleman, as administratrix.

P. A. Dooley in charge of the Dooley & Dooley partnership estate, made final settlement, showing full administration with no balances, as administrator of the John A. Dooley estate, a balance of \$121.51 was found to be due on final settlement, which was ordered distributed to Grace Dooley, \$113.79; to P. A. Dooley, \$7.72.

Ralph Meyer, as administrator of the Wm. Terry estate, made his final settlement, showing a balance of \$603.83, which was ordered distributed, \$105.14 each to Elma, Terry Colwell and Mabel C. Meyer and Ralph Meyer as guardian of the minor heirs of W. H. Terry. Mr. Meyer also made settlement as the guardian of the Terry heirs, showing balance of \$837.85; \$50 was appropriated for the support of Mary.

M. D. Walker, in charge of the John H. Proctor estate, made his 2d annual settlement, showing a balance of \$218.22.

Wm. Jackson, as guardian of Virgie Jackson, an insane person, filed his 5th settlement, which showed a balance of \$806.13.

Mrs. Lena Gordon, in charge of the B. F. Gordon estate, showed a balance of \$203.37 due the estate on her first settlement.

John and Henry Fries, in charge of the John G. Fries estate, made their first settlement showing a balance of \$1,973.37.

Dewitt Porter and Henry Fries, executors of the L. C. Fries estate, made a showing of a balance of \$3,527.68, due the estate on their first settlement.

Joseph Hatfield, as the guardian of the Hatfield heirs, made his 7th annual accounting, showing the estate to have been fully administered, and settlements were ordered discontinued.

L. A. Hunt, executor of the Peter Riley estate filed his third settlement, which showed a balance of \$10,253.36.

W. E. Smith, guardian of Harry Smith, made his 8th annual exhibit of the affairs of his ward, showing a balance of \$1,143.75; the sum of \$35 was appropriated for support of his ward.

The court allowed the following demands:

Demand of	Against estate of	Amount
D. C. Porter	Jacob Moser	\$433.19
W. S. Thomson & Co	Hiram Tuser	153.15
E. S. Thatcher	Geo. Adolph	90.00
W. S. Thomson & Co	D. D. Perkins	20.50

#### Not Worrying Us.

A reader of this great moral guide wants to know if it is possible that it is going to take 20 years yet to dig the Isthmian canal and what kind of a job will it be when it is completed.

We have but little idea as to the length of time it will take to dig the canal, never having had any extended experience in digging canals of that sort, or of any sort. We hope that it will be completed before we have passed over into the auriferous here, and if we are still alive at its completion that it will be before we have arrived at an age when we are no longer able to expectorate over our chin; but further than this general interest, we refuse to become excited about that canal or those any sleep worrying over the matter. So far as we know, we have nothing that we desire to ship by way of the canal, and we cannot at this writing think of anything that anybody wants to ship to us by that route. If however, President Taft should want a good man on the commission, who is in favor of pushing things to the end of completing the job at as early a day as possible, we are ready to accept the place and draw the salary.

Mrs. M. D. Walker, after an extended visit with her daughter, Mrs. J. C. Riley, of Maitland, has come back home, and brought her grand daughter, Velma Markt, home with her for a visit.

#### Bryan the Preacher.

We have from Chattanooga a report that two well known evangelists of that city, who have conducted campaigns in various parts of this and other countries, have asked William J. Bryan to join them in their good work. Just what Mr. Bryan's reply will be we do not know, but we imagine that he will decline the proposition.

This does not mean, however, that Mr. Bryan is not a good preacher. Indeed, he is preacher first, journalist, lawyer, statesman, politician, orator afterwards. Bryan is not merely religious, although his devotion to a faith is not to be questioned. He is essentially a giver of advice, a leader of a flock and expounder of doctrine. He has the personal platform magnetism of the evangelist. By tricks of mind that are unconsciously operated, he sways his hearers much after the manner of the old fashioned exhorter. He is likely to "stir" sentiments within a willing breast. Where he can not get votes, he can get tears; and we should not be surprised if his preaching were to bring hundreds upon hundreds to the mercy seat.

Mr. Bryan is out of politics in the sense that he will never again appear as a national leader of the Democratic party. It is not too much to say, however, that he may come back one of these days as the chieftain of some new movement—one of those unexpected but sweeping waves of public thought that sometimes, as the world's history has told us, have washed the foundations from beneath great governments. It is not our view that this country is ripe for one of these large movements, nor do we think that one of them will come while Mr. Bryan survives as a strong figure on our stage; but that the man from Nebraska will be hard from as a poet or preacher, lecturer or lawyer, we cannot doubt.

#### International Intimacy.

The German Emperor a short time ago gave to an American journalist an interview. It was sold to one of our great magazines and was announced for publication. Meanwhile, the Emperor's "calculated indiscretions" got him into trouble in Europe and even at home. His own people questioned the wisdom of his attitude on public matters, and a row of no small proportions was created.

The article sent to America had got into proof and there came forth certain signs that the magazine would soon give it to the world—rather proudly, perhaps, for it is not every magazine that can present to its readers an authorized interview with a really great Emperor. Then by a process not entirely clear at this time, influences were set to work. It was seen that the interview might not serve the ends of international harmony. It would not do to let it appear.

Cable, telegraph, important personages and many conferences were employed to the end that the article was suppressed. International intimacy in a degree not dreamed of before the days of Hay's and Root's shirt sleeve diplomacy was employed and the end was that the magazine proprietors agreed to leave the article out of its publication. Incidentally, the German Emperor proved his ability to "suppress" a publication in America, an achievement worth while and very difficult, as some of our foremost citizens will agree. Indeed the Emperor has been able to do in the United States a thing he has not always been able to do at home.

#### No Rehearing.

It was to have been expected, and generally speaking it was expected, that the United States court of appeals, which originally reversed the decision of Judge Landis imposing a fine of 25 millions on Standard Oil, would also refuse to grant a rehearing of the case before the same appellate judges. No matter now what the reasons for this expectation were, but from the time the original decision in the appellate court was given it was taken for granted that the government's only hope lay in the supreme court of the United States, to which tribunal, it is now hoped, the case may be taken.

Incidentally, there is reason to believe that under the Taft administration there will be accomplished some radical reforms in court procedure. This subject is near to Mr. Taft's heart. He discussed it courageously in his canvass. He approves of President Roosevelt's recommendations, that the government be given the right of appeal in criminal cases not involving capital punishment, just as the individual is given the same right.

It is the view of Judge Taft that procedure should be simplified, litigation accelerated and that the rich litigant should have no advantages in the law itself that the poor litigant does not enjoy. And the Standard Oil case is likely to furnish good ground for argument.

Lester Hodgkin, who has been so very low with typhoid fever, is reported to be some better.

#### The Future Missouri River.

The claims of the inland waterway promoters have been substantially advanced by the Deep Waterways convention just held in Chicago. It is practically assured that a large appropriation will be made by congress next winter to begin this work as it should be begun. There is also reason to believe that in the near future some plan for financing the whole project will be devised and adopted so that the major portion of the great waterways system, connecting the big interior markets directly with the seaports of the world, shall be made available in the shortest possible time. This is not only the right policy, but it is also the right plan as an investment plan.

No private corporation would build a great plant, at great cost, and then give it only half equipment. It would give it the full equipment at once so that it could get returns on the investment. Mr. Taft, in his address to the convention the other day, urged the provision of ample funds to complete the main divisions of the system, and protested against the waste that would come of doing the work only halfway or by slow stages.

Missouri has a tremendously important part in this waterways play. From the mouth of the Missouri river to the eastern boundary of Kansas the stream traverses the state near the longitudinal center. No interstate complexity arises over what the state might undertake to do on its own account to improve the river between St. Louis and Kansas City. The possibilities of state work are scarcely less inspiring than the possibilities of Federal undertakings along this stream. It should be remembered that under the most favorable circumstances congress cannot be expected to do everything that could be done and should be done for the Missouri river in this state. And the more the state does for itself, the more the river will get from the Federal government. And all that the Federal government will give and all that the state can do will not be too much for such a waterway as the Missouri can be made or for such a reclamation project as can be carried forward in connection with river improvement.

The details of such a reclamation scheme would have to be worked out most carefully, but the plan is wholly feasible. The construction of levees should embody the building of a great east and west highway. In the main, the first St. Louis Kansas City highway should follow the Missouri. It would be the best single medium that could be provided for the aid of farmers in getting their products to the docks. The hundreds of thousands of acres of land that would be protected against floods or reclaimed from the river would in themselves, through their increased values, pay for this reclamation and highway project; but the benefits would reach a much more extended territory.

The time of waste is nearing an end in this wonderfully resourceful Western country. The state of Missouri is singularly blessed on the coming utilization of its great river, rolling through the center of the commonwealth and recognized as one of the chief beneficiaries of the great national project of waterways conservation.

#### Owners of Corporations.

We are accustomed to hear Morgan, Rockefeller, Harriman, Vanderbilt, Gould and others, denounced as capitalistic kings who are oppressors of labor. Denunciation has been so frequent that many of us have accepted it as based on fact. In correction of this error the New York Times has just published an exhibit that demands attention of all honest people. The exhibit shows conclusively that not a few men are owners of our corporations.

The railroads of the country are now owned by 500,000 stockholders who share the \$300,000,000 disbursed in dividends. The steel corporation is composed of 110,000 shareholders, and even Standard Oil has 5,500. Enumeration might be continued did space permit, but it is necessary only to state that the figures show that incorporated enterprises are composed of a grand total of over 2,000,000 stockholders. Yet, this great number does not represent all the people interested in corporations, for the savings banks of this country carrying 15,000,000 accounts have over \$200,000,000 invested in railroad securities for their 8,500,000 depositors; while the insurance companies protecting 25,000,000 policy holders, have more than five times that amount invested in corporate securities. Certainly these figures show that Morgan, Rockefeller, and others do not own the corporations.

An earthquake shock was felt at Sedalia, Clinton, Houstonia, La Monte, and other towns in that section of our state, on the morning of the 12th inst.

Mrs. J. F. McClary, of Washington, Kansas, was here on a visit with her cousin, Charley Bartram, last week.